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AUTHOR Shidlo, Ariel, Ed.; Schroeder, Michael, Ed.; Drescher, Jack, Ed.

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## ABSTRACT

The American Psychiatric Association's 1973 decision to remove homosexuality as a mental disorder from the "Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders" has been followed by an era of significant improvements in the sociopolitical standing of lesbians, gay men, and bisexuals in the United States. Despite these changes, and perhaps even because of them, a marginal subset of mental health practitioners continues to diagnose and treat individuals with a homosexual orientation as if they were mentally ill. The tools these clinicians have used include psychoanalysis, religious faith healing, aversive behavioral conditioning and even electroshock therapy. In their fervor to "fix" homosexuals, practitioners of sexual conversion therapies have often overlooked or completely dismissed the possible psychological and social side effects of such treatments. This book works to counterbalance the clinical and ethical omissions of overzealous therapists who have appeared, at times, to focus on efficacy and outcome at the expense of their patients' well being. This book features first-person accounts of patients, including psychotherapists, who themselves have undergone treatments that include psychoanalysis, religious faith healing, and aversion therapy using electric shock. It also presents empirical research on conversion therapy from a consumer-centered perspective that sheds light on ethical issues. Each chapter contains references. (GCP)